THE NEW JERSEY EXONUMIA SOCIETY
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

JERSEYANA

ISSUE NUMER 114 JULY-AUG-SEPT 2004

N.J.E.S. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
George Skic, 110 Harbourton-Mt. Airy Road, Lambertville, NJ 08530
e-mail - mercerhill@peoplepc.com.

VICE-PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN:
Steven A. Middleton, PO Box 83 Boonton, NJ 07005,
E-mail - Smiddletoy@aol.com.

SECRETARY:
Esther Skic, 110 Harbourton-Mt. Airy Road, Lambertville, NJ 08530

EDITOR AND TREASURER:
Al Zaika, PO Box 65, Bellmawr 08099-0065

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

REGULAR.... $8.00, ASSOCIATE...$4.00, JUNIOR (-18)...$5.00 LIFE MEMBER...$160.00

EDITOR'S CORNER

As of this date, no one has volunteered to take on the position of Editor of Jerseyana. As I mentioned in the last issue, this is my last effort as Editor. Jerseyana is the lifeblood of our society and without an editor, there will not be a NJES. So please contact any of our Officers if you will take on this job. Thanks very much.

Al Zaika

THE KING'S LIBRARY AND ITS SCRIP

David D. Gladfelter, NLG

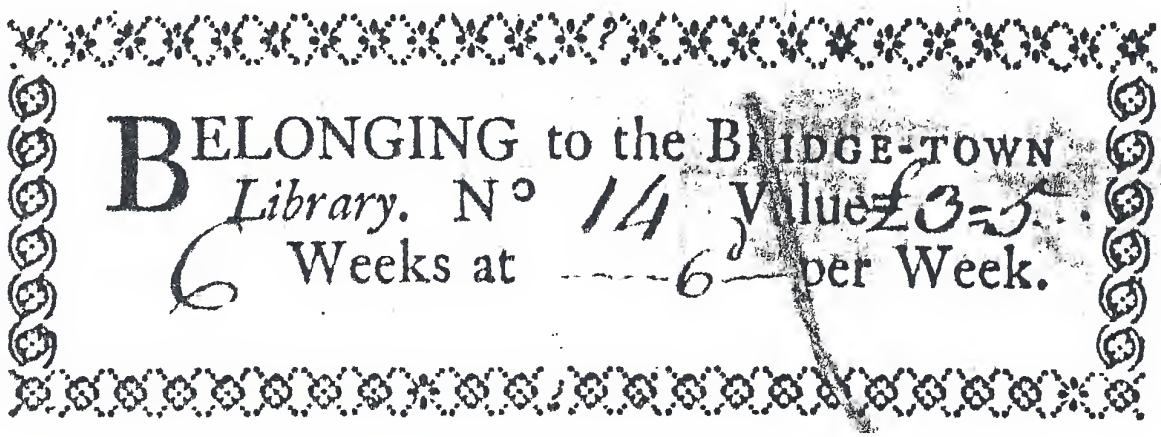
An 1816 promissory note of the Bridge-Town Library Company in Mount Holly
Signed by Library President Andrew Slater. Wait 203 (R7).

For Al Zaika's final issue of Jerseyana we take you back to 1765 when New-Jersey (as it was then spelled) was still a British royal colony. On June 11th of that year, King George III granted a royal charter to the "Incorporated Library Company of Bridge-Town." The charter was obtained through the influence of Charles Read of Burlington, an attorney and landowner, secretary of the colony, former speaker of the colonial assembly and member of the Religious Society of Friends. The charter, still in existence today, is signed by Read as an agent of the Crown and contains the names of all 61 of the incorporators. The list includes many family names still prominent today in Burlington County, such as Haines, Budd, Brainerd, Shinn, Bispham, Woolston and Goldy. The Bridge-Town Library was the fifth to be established in New Jersey, and the second in Burlington County, seven years after that in Burlington City.

In those days the Township of Mount Holly was also known as "Bridge-Town," a name that is coming back into use as the community begins to discover its historical roots. For example, one can now enjoy fish and chips with draft beer at the Bridgetown Pub, a modern-day watering spot "in downtown historic Mount Holly." Numismatists will note that the pub is hard by the original building of the Farmers Bank of New Jersey, opened in 1815, which until last year was the oldest continuously-operating bank building in the state. Both names were used for the Burlington County seat during the early to middle 18th century, with "Bridge-Town" gradually dying out by the time of the Revolution.

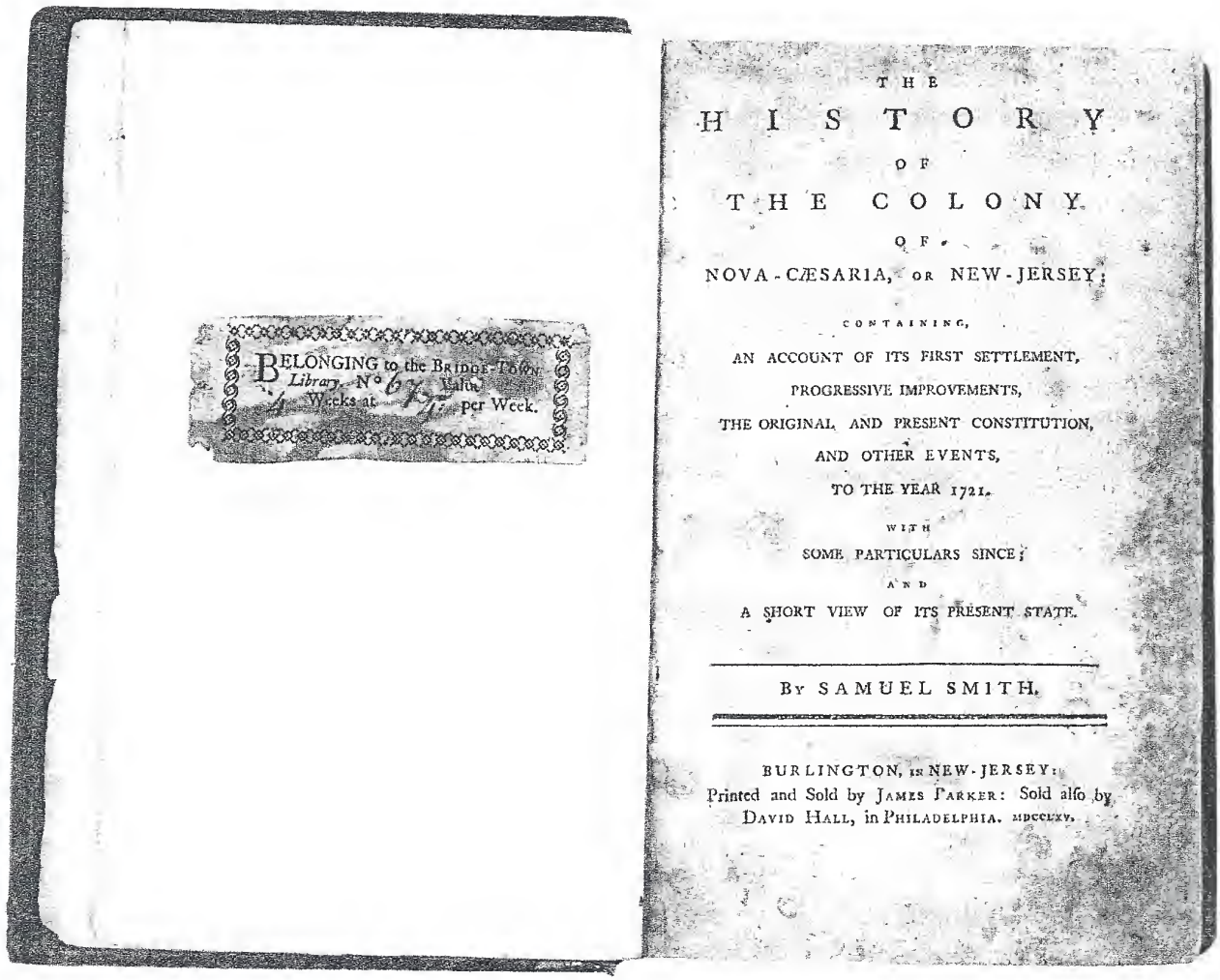
The library opened for business on the second floor of the old Township Hall with a stock of about 150 books. In an era when (per Pomfret) "the average family owned at most a Bible, a catechism, a hymnal, or a religious tract or two," the collection had to be practical. This was not a tax supported "free public library" such as we have today. It was a lending library that earned its income by charging borrowers for the privilege of using the books. We know this because each of

the books in the collection was identified by a book plate pasted inside its front cover, on which was stated the book's value and the charge to its borrower. Illustrated here, for example, is the book plate (enlarged 2x) for Number 14 in the collection, volume I of the classic two-volume legal treatise, Blackstone's Commentaries, published in London in 1766. In the absence of a developed legal system in colonial New Jersey, both attorneys and courts had to rely on treatises such as Blackstone's for advising clients and deciding disputes. Therefore, this book would have seen heavy circulation. Its value (probably original cost) is stated on the book plate as £3/5, and it could be borrowed for up to 6 weeks at 6d per week. By arithmetic calculation, the library's investment in this book would have been repaid after 130 weeks of circulation, or in less than 3 years time if the book were in constant demand.



The library's collection was moved several times after the Township Hall was torn down in 1798. It continued to expand over the years, as can be seen by the original book plate present in an 1832 biography of Stephen Girard. However, the institution fell on hard times. In later years the collection was housed in the office of Samuel Clark, the library's last clerk, and still later in his home. Clark claimed the books for unpaid rent. Shinn relates that "in some way they came into the possession of Dr. Zachariah Reed, sadly depleted in number. The doctor placed the books, and presumably the charter, in the care of Lewis R. Ashurst at Clover Hill, where they remained until a circulating library was established at the [Burlington County] Lyceum [of History and Natural Sciences] in 1876." In 1931 the collections were loaned to the State Museum at Trenton.

One of the notable books that left the collection is an original edition of Samuel Smith's History of the Colony of Nova-Cæsarea, or New-Jersey, published at Burlington in 1765 by James Parker, the King's Printer. The Smith history was the first written about New Jersey and is still in print, the latest edition being the 1966 reprint of the 1890 second edition. In the reprint, Kenneth W. Richards, then head of the Archives and History Bureau of the State Library, credits Smith's history as being an important source book on the colonial period as it drew upon many documents now lost. Smith, a Burlington Quaker as was Charles Read, was for many years a member, secretary and treasurer of the provincial council. Numismatists also know him as a signer of many of the issues of New Jersey colonial paper money printed by Parker when his shop was in Woodbridge. The Bridge-Town Library's copy of Smith was Number 67 in the collection, and according to the book plate, circulated for up to 4 weeks at 4d per week. This book appeared



in Early American History Auctions' June 2004 sale. The catalog illustration is reproduced here by courtesy of Dana Linett.

While specie was hoarded during the War of 1812, the Library Company put out three issues of scrip. The earliest of these was dated September 19, 1814; George Wait lists 3 different denominations. A single .25 denomination is listed with the date Feb. 13, 1815 and the printer's imprint of L. Deare. The final issue with 3 denominations printed by N. L. Coombes is dated June, 1816; the .25 note from plate C is shown here with an attractive design of an eagle flying with an olive branch, above a globe flanked by books. The "E. J." is a mystery as the provinces of East and West Jersey had been reunited a century earlier, and all of Burlington County including "Bridge-Town" would have been in West Jersey.

REFERENCES

John E. Pomfret, Colonial New Jersey: A History. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973.
Henry C. Shinn, The History of Mount Holly. Mt. Holly, N. J., Mount Holly Herald, 1957.
Samuel Smith, The History of the Colony of Nova-Cæsarea, or New-Jersey, Second Edition. Trenton, N. J., William S. Sharp, 1890; reprint, Spartanburg, S.C., The Reprint Company, 1966.

Steve Middleton
NJES Vice President
PO Box 83
Boonton, NJ 07005
email: Smiddletoy@aol.com
June 17, 2004

NEW JERSEY EXONUMIA SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP REPORT
JUNE, 2004

There are currently 38 paid up regular members. Thanks for getting those payments in. We also have 35 life members on the NJES rolls as of the end of June, 2004.

Two new members are Sandra Wunder from Woodbine, NJ and Clair Cupo from Wayne, NJ. Welcome!

A spirited NJES Annual Meeting was held at the GSNA Convention last month, with about ten members participating.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

Steve Middleton

TREASURERS REPORT

As of July 22, 2004, our bank account has a balanc of $3,637.60. Our last "C.D." was not renewed when it matured, as the interest rate was very low, so all of our assets are in one account.

Al Zaika, trasurer.

Wanted: Items related to the old Jersey City Stadium, (AKA) Roosevelt Stadium, and Roosevelt Stadium in North Bergen/Union City, NJ. George Dorsey, 168 E. Spring Valley Ave., Maywood, NJ 07107

Wanted: Encased cents and other coins, engraved coins, pop-outs, scenic love tokens, hobo nickels, potty dollars, just about anything made from coins. Send for my offer or call me at 407-352-7807. Bob Slawsky, PO Box 864, Windermere, FL 34786.

Dog License Tags: If you do not read ***PAW PRINTS***, you do not know dog license tags. Complimentary copy on request. Bill Bone, Editor, 928 S.R. 2206, Clinton, KY 42031.

Ocean County: Collecting and Researching all Ocean County obsolete and broken banknotes and merchant scrip. Want anything from Toms River 1850 to 1960, also notes issued in Bricksburg 1840's, Manchester 1840's....BUY - SELL - TRADE. Bob Mitchell, 2775 S.E. Eagle Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984-8919.

Wanted: Tickets, Transfers, Photographs, and any other items related to streetcars or busses in Scranton, Pa. Charles Wrobleski, 206 Green Street, Clarks Green, PA 18411.

Wanted: Both BPOE and IBPOEW tokens and medals. Write first describing and pricing your items. J.M. Boswell, PO Box 428, Gambrills, MD 21054.

Wanted: Edison collector seeks Thomas Edison memorabilia, esp. medals, tokens, and souvenirs. Please write with full description and price. Also interested in first and second-hand accounts of Mr. Edison and his legend. George Skic E-Mail: mercerhill@peoplepc.com.

Wanted: Large 73mm Lucky Souvenir penny (Indian Head) with swastikas in the headband. E-mail gptokens @worldnet.att.net or write Gary Patterson, 10-4th St. Manchester, NJ 08759.

Wanted: New Jersey mining tokens and other exonumia related to mining activities in NJ, especially NJ Zinc Co. Please send a description of what you have. Frank Steimle, PO Box 465, Allenhurst, NJ 07711.

For Sale: Old copy of a 1932 Campbell Soup Tomato Contract, along with 3 different picker tickets, from the John Gallagher farm in Mt. Laurel. The farm fell to development in the 1970's. The contract measure approximately 10"x23" $10.00 folded, $12.50 rolled. Dennis P. Helmer, 112 Carlton Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108.

All kinds of tokens for sale or trade, send your want lists. Wanted; arcade, Minneapolis pinball token and "cuds" on modern U.S. coins. Joe Steger, 585 Diagonal Rd., Apt #106, Akron, Ohio 44320-3071.

Wanted: Bronze medal issued by the ocean County Girl Scout Council to commemorate the completion of their new headquarters in Toms River, NJ. Al Zaika, PO Box 65, Bellmawr, NJ 08099-0065.

Free updated amusement token listing via e-mail for DE, NC, NJ, NY, PA, SC, TN, VA, and WV or available burned onto a CD_ROM in Microsoft Word format for $5 postpaid. E-mail RDSchopp@aol.com or write to Bob Schopp, 16 Sanbert Circle, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690-2510.

Will buy, swap or correspond on WW-I service medals issued by States, Counties, Cities or Towns. Lou Small, Box 1926-J, Jacksonville, FL 32245-9262.

Wanted: Quaddy Moccasin Wooden Nickels, showing City and State. I am also interested in weird and unusual tokens. Please list what you have for sale, Thank you. Jerome J. Panfil, 3124 So. 47th St., Milwaukee, WI 53219-4609.

Will Pay up to $125 for WW-I service medals issued by states, cities or towns. Please write first. Lou Small, Box 19262-NJ, Jacksonville, FL 32245.

First Flight Newark - Los Angeles, 1921, First Day Cover

Advertising Rates

Full Page----------$10.00
Half Page----------$ 5.00
Quarter Page----------$ 3.00
Business Card, (1 Time)------$2.00
Business Card, (6 Times)----$10.00

NEW JERSEY EXONUMIA SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 65
BELLMAWR, NJ 08099-0065

FIRST CLASS